



## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)

**Hon. David Akeeagok**  
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation; Minister of  
Energy*

**Joelie Kaernerik**  
(Amittuq)

**Mary Killiktee**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Karen Nutarak**  
(Tununiq)

**Daniel Qavvik**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible  
for Immigration; Minister responsible for the  
Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
Utility Rates Review Council*

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the  
Financial Management Board; Minister  
responsible for the Nunavut Housing  
Corporation*

**Hon. Joanna Quassa**  
(Aggu)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;  
Minister of Languages; Minister  
responsible for Seniors*

**Bobby Anavilok**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Janet Brewster**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Hon. Pamela Gross**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister  
responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**Hon. John Main**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

*Minister of Health; Minister responsible  
for Suicide Prevention*

**Inagayuk Quqqiaq**  
(Netsilik)

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield  
Inlet)

**Solomon Malliki**  
(Aivilik)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**George Hikes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of  
the Whole*

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister  
responsible for Homelessness; Minister  
of Human Resources;*

*Minister responsible for the Status of  
Women; Minister responsible for the  
Workers' Safety and Compensation  
Commission*

**Hon. Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Justice; Minister  
responsible for Labour; Minister  
responsible for the Qulliq Energy  
Corporation*

**Hon. David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)

*Government House Leader; Minister of  
Community and Government Services*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday, October 26, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Mr. Malliki, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Malliki.

**Speaker's Statement**

(interpretation ends) Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I am pleased to formally welcome members back to the House for our fall sitting.

I also extend a very warm welcome to elders and Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings on television, radio and Internet livestream.

I would like to note that the Member for Kugluktuk's flight was cancelled due to mechanical issues, and he is expected to join us later this week.

Members, when we were last here for our spring sitting, we had recently celebrated Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second's Platinum Jubilee.

In September of this year, we mourned her passing and I wish to thank the Commissioner of Nunavut and my colleagues for taking part in a number of official events to commemorate her reign.

Yesterday marked the one-year anniversary of the sixth territorial general election.

To my colleagues who are serving their first term, I want to say that you will find that time passes very quickly.

Over the past year, we have accomplished much together, but more work lies ahead.

I encourage all members to conduct themselves during our fall sitting with respect for each other, respect for this institution, and respect for the Nunavummiut who have entrusted us with the solemn responsibilities of office.

I also wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the people of Gjoa Haven for their continued confidence in me as their Member of the Legislative Assembly. It is a great honour to represent them.

As the Member for Gjoa Haven, I recently had the opportunity to attend the annual general meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. It was good to catch up with regional leaders and I pay tribute to the important work of the association.

Before we proceed with the orders of the day, it is my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from Her Honour the Commissioner of Nunavut.

### **Money Message**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 8, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023*;
- Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024*.

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements.  
Government House Leader, Mr. Joanasié.

### **Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

#### **Minister's Statement 070 – 6(2): Minister Absent from the House**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Nunavummiut and welcome to the visitors in the gallery.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise members that the Hon. Craig Simailak will be absent from the House today due to unforeseen issues with airline scheduling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

#### **Minister's Statement 071 – 6(2): 2022 Council of the Federation Literacy Council Award**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavummiut, my colleagues and fellow MLAs, good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Council of the Federation Literacy Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to be joined here as well in regard to this award which celebrates the valuable contributions made by Canadians in the field of literacy. In Nunavut, this award recognizes individuals who support and inspire others to use Inuktitut and develop literacy skills through oral, written or artistic expression.

On September 8 I was honoured to announce the Council of the Federation Literacy Award went to Jeela Palluq-Cloutier.

>> *Applause*

This award recognizes Jeela's tireless work towards revitalizing and strengthening Inuktitut languages for many years. Recently she has translated of 11,000 words to ensure Facebook to be able to be accessible in Inuktitut. She has also worked on validating Inuktitut language models which allow Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun to be used in the Microsoft Translator.

I want to congratulate Jeela, who is here joining us today, and thank her for her dedication to strengthening our Inuktitut languages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

### **Minister's Statement 072 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Staff Housing**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. First of all, I welcome everyone to our session.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Human Resources, I want to acknowledge the work the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Allocation Committee has done recently to ensure the staff housing allocation process is more equitable, efficient, and prioritizes Inuit employees.

The committee is comprised of assistant deputy minister level representatives from all government departments, including the Legislative Assembly, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and Nunavut Arctic College.

The committee reviewed the present Staff Housing Policy and implemented changes, such as allocating units faster, removing duplicate positions from the wait-list, removing allocated units that were vacant for more than six months, and increasing the percentage of units available for all job levels. The committee also developed criteria for the staff housing wait-list and allocated 16 units in October to Inuit employees.

I would like to thank Nunavut Housing Corporation Minister Lorne Kusugak and his senior officials for his support and collaboration as we implement these important and positive changes that ensure staff housing allocation is guided by Sanaqatigiingniq and Aajiiqatigiingniq. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

### **Minister's Statement 073 – 6(2): 2022 Petroleum Products Resupply**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): I again thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good day to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, planning the annual resupply of fuel to Nunavut's 25 communities during the summer shipping season is a complex undertaking requiring detailed logistics and careful forecasting of sales volumes. In an ideal resupply season, fuel is delivered to each community when the inventory from the prior year has been depleted, but prior to what may be considered a shortage or an outage of any fuel product type.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the 2022 resupply was not an ideal season, with multiple communities experiencing shortages or outages of specific fuel products essential to living and working in Nunavut. A combination of common factors contributed to these shortages and outages in each respective community, including:

- Total available storage capacity available in the community,
- Volume of fuel delivered to the community in 2021,
- Increased sales of specific fuel products, as well as
- Changes or delays in delivery schedules.

Mr. Speaker, my department recognizes the impact that fuel service interruptions have on living and working in Nunavut. Access to fuel supports harvesting activities, municipal programs and services, air travel and, as we move into the winter months, heating our homes and buildings.

Recognizing the importance of ongoing access to petroleum products in communities, this summer the Petroleum Products Division took a series of measures to minimize the number and impact of inventory shortages in communities, including:

- Enhanced monitoring of existing inventory,
- Rerouting of resupply vessels to prioritize communities with limited inventory available,
- Reconfiguring storage equipment to maximize the use of available inventory,
- Air resupply of critical fuel products, and

- Increased communications and collaboration with stakeholders, including the public, hamlets, Government of Nunavut departments, and airlines.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the 2022 fuel resupply season is almost complete and today I would like to share with members that the volume of fuel purchased for delivery to communities has been increased by 12.5 percent over 2021 volumes. This additional volume of fuel will help minimize the risk of shortages leading into the 2023 resupply season.

To help ensure communities are aware of the steps being taken by the Petroleum Products Division, the department has provided a letter to each municipality of 2022 fuel volumes and any additional measures being taken to ensure their access to fuel products is not interrupted leading into the 2023 resupply.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, with the 2022 resupply nearing completion, my department will be turning its focus to purchasing fuel and planning logistics for the 2023 resupply. This forward planning includes developing a fuel pricing strategy that will set fuel prices for the upcoming year and I anticipate having more information to share with members on fuel pricing for the upcoming year in November. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

### **Minister's Statement 074 – 6(2): 35 Years of Environmental Technology Program**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Nunavummiut, to our fellow colleagues, and to our visitors in the gallery and those at home in Cambridge Bay.

*Quana*, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to share a remarkable milestone: Nunavut Arctic College is pleased to announce the 35th anniversary of the Environmental Technology Program.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit societal values are fundamental to the program, and *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* principles are integrated through elders, hunters, and Inuit professionals who are brought into the classroom on a practical and daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, the strength and success of the program is a result of the support received from our partners and alumni. I would like to acknowledge the Government of Nunavut, the federal government, Inuit organizations, and institutes of public government for their continued contributions to ensure a dynamic and relevant curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, having graduated environmental practitioners since 1987, I am pleased to share that approximately 90 percent of the graduates are Inuit, and many of the alumni have found meaningful employment within Nunavut. As the environmental sector

continues to grow, Nunavut Arctic College remains committed to the ongoing success of the Environmental Technology Program, more graduates, and the positive impacts and contributions alumni make towards Nunavut. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Minister's Statement 075 – 6(2): Savanna Pikuyak Scholarship**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My ministerial colleagues and fellow MLAs, it's great to be meeting again.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, last month Nunavummiut grieved the loss of Savanna Pikuyak, who passed away suddenly in Ottawa. Savanna had left the territory to pursue pre-nursing studies with the aim of becoming a nurse.

Savanna's career choice reflected her caring nature and would have been of great benefit to her fellow Nunavummiut. Following the tragic news of her death, the Department of Health developed a scholarship in her name to help support students wanting to pursue careers in nursing.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, this small gesture brings a glimmer of light to this dark time for Savanna's family and community. It also ensures that Savanna's memory will serve to motivate and inspire other Nunavummiut to pursue nursing careers.

Today I will be honoured to welcome Savanna's parents, who will join me in awarding the first Savanna Pikuyak scholarship to Ms. Joni Karoo.

I invite members to join me in the lobby at the break to congratulate Ms. Karoo and thank her for pursuing a field of study that will benefit Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 096 – 6(2): Member's Return to Constituency**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a statement.

Mr. Speaker, this is a difficult day for my family and me.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month an incident occurred in my home community of Taloyoak. The incident involved both my partner and I.

It is now a matter of public record that both of us have been charged with assault under the *Criminal Code*.

Mr. Speaker, as a legislator, I fully appreciate that we do not interfere with the justice system and the operations of the courts.

These charges will be dealt with appropriately through the judicial process.

Mr. Speaker, after the incident occurred, I notified the Integrity Commissioner.

As the Member for Netsilik, I believe that it is important for me to meet with all of my colleagues in person to discuss the situation.

Mr. Speaker, I respect all of my colleagues and I thank them for their candour.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want my personal situation to be a distraction, which is why I will be returning to my constituency. It is my hope that this matter will be resolved expeditiously, and I extend my very best wishes to all of my colleagues for a productive sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

### **Member's Statement 097 – 6(2): Naujaat Community Hall**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Salluit and Naujaat residents, and my colleagues here. It's great that we can meet again.

I have a few words on the October 8 on an incident in Naujaat regarding the community centre. It was heavily used by the residents of Naujaat, in particular the youth of Naujaat. Not just the Naujaat residents, it was used for multiple things like meetings.

For this reason, I will have a question for the Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

### **Member's Statement 098 – 6(2): Finance Scholarship**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Iqalummiut, Nunavummiut, and the distinguished staff in the gallery. I rise to announce the fifth recipient of my finance scholarship.

The accounting and finance field is an exciting career path filled with analysis, critical thinking, and if you're lucky, complex Excel spreadsheets.

>>*Laughter*

Something only analytical thinkers can truly enjoy.

Nunavut has a high demand for finance specialists in numerous fields. There are hundreds of finance-related jobs in the Government of Nunavut, and likely hundreds more in Nunavut across the public and private sectors.

Unfortunately, this career has very little Inuit representation which is why I created this scholarship, to help encourage our youth to consider accounting and finance as a viable career option.

Without further ado, I would like to congratulate Ms. Amelia Mike-Mathieu for being selected for this year's finance scholarship. The Inuksuk High School faculty selected Ms. Mike-Mathieu for being a dedicated individual who has demonstrated strong motivation to academics, and has positively contributed to life at Inuksuk High School. In addition, Ms. Mike-Mathieu has displayed entrepreneurial talent by founding Creations by Amelia Mike-Mathieu in utilizing social media to sell her beautiful artwork. I hope this scholarship will assist your to transition to post-secondary life.

I would like to ask all Members in joining me in congratulating Ms. Mike-Mathieu in being accepted to Algonquin College's school of business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

### **Member's Statement 099 – 6(2): Premier's Visit to Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, Visitors in the Gallery, and the people of Nunavut. I rise today to acknowledge and thank the Premier to his recent visit to Sanikiluaq, which took place after the conclusion of our spring sitting.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that our leaders and senior decision-makers make the effort and take the time to see firsthand the issues that we face in Nunavut's smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, as soon as the Premier arrived in the community, we went straight to the temporary municipal office to meet with local leaders.

I was very pleased that the Premier was able hear directly from them with such issues as the need to proceed with critical infrastructure improvements in the community.

Mr. Speaker, soon after the meeting with the council we attended a high school graduation ceremony where we celebrated five high school graduates.

Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to see young individuals in my community completing their high school diplomas and pursuing further educational opportunities. We need to demonstrate to our youth the importance and value of education and we need to increase the numbers of graduates in the community.

I thank the Premier for the time to speak with our youth in Sanikiluaq and emphasizing this message.

Mr. Speaker, our day was not done yet. After the graduation ceremony we sat down and met with the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association, who also provided the Premier with valuable input into issues of concern related to environmental protection, wildlife management and the use of traditional knowledge.

The day ended with an excellent meeting with the steering committee that is working on the Qiqqitait Steering Committee protected area initiative.

Mr. Speaker, there was no sleeping in on Saturday as our day started with a memorable gathering with Sanikiluaq elders over a meal of traditional eggs, eider duck eggs and bannock. The elders shared their experience and wisdom with the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of more pages and I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there nays? There are none please proceed Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members, for allowing me to conclude my statement.

Mr. Speaker, my predecessor as Hudson Bay MLA and your predecessor as Speaker, Mr. Rumbolt, volunteered to take the Premier out boating on a Saturday afternoon. So, we jumped onto his boat and travelled approximately 30 kilometres south of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, at around 6:30 that Saturday evening, we manage to harvest seven beluga whales. I managed to harvest three whales and when I gave my gun to the Premier, he shot four more whales. Mr. Speaker, the Premier is a sharpshooter.

>>*Laughter*

We arrived back to the community shortly after midnight. Thanks to modern technology, the community was aware of our successful hunt and close to a hundred residents were able to share the harvest.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the Premier for spending time with my constituents and I will conclude by extending an open invitation to each and every one of my colleagues to visit our beautiful community of Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak

**Member's Statement 100 – 6(2): Table Tennis Participants from Pond Inlet**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize firstly as my voice is quite hoarse. I'll continue despite my condition. A good afternoon wish to Mittimatalik residents along with our guests here, welcome.

I rise today, in acknowledgement of our youth who recently participated in sports in Iqaluit on table tennis and those who participated in Iqaluit came from all over, however, I'd like to recognize our youth from Mittimatalik whom I represent and who received medals.

For the age group 19 and under, two women received bronze; Amanda Simonee and Alison Koonark, Kristy Kanayuk was included.

For the age group 15 and under and two who got gold; Alain Nutarak and Nicolas Shappa.

For the age group 19 and under, two males received silver: Joshua Shappa, and Nuka Ootoova.

As well, we had women and men pairs who received bronze came to Alison Koonark and Nuka Ootoova.

In men's singles 15 and under, gold was awarded to Nicholas Shappa; 19 and under women's singles, Allison Koonark received bronze; 19 and under men's singles, bronze was awarded to Nuka Ootoova; and Nicholas Shappa will be going to the Arctic Winter Games this coming winter.

I would also like to recognize Brady Frasier and Laura Kasarnak, who were able to care for these young athletes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 101 – 6(2): Anti-suicide Initiatives**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good day” to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring up a topic that was talked about a lot. It's hard to talk about, but I believe that it has to be brought up.

Almost a year ago, we all were here when the students had an anti-suicide protest here in the lobby. They filled it up; they filled it right to the outside, and we were all touched by it and we were all hurt by it. We are all affected by suicide.

The MLA, P.J. Akeeagok, posted that “I hear you loud and clear,” *tuhaqpagit*. That was a good sign, then come the leadership and it was a subject that was talked about a lot again. We were asked on the potential Premier candidates about suicide and we all had responses. The response by the now Premier, Premier Akeeagok, said that we have to fight suicide like COVID, with the same veracity as we fought COVID, and today I have not seen that.

Fast-forward a bit and we get to the government mandate, the *Katujjiluta*, anti-suicide is mentioned there once and all it says is “Reinvest in anti-suicide.” I have not seen any historical or monumental programs or funding to help the people that need help so that suicide can be curtailed. Mr. Speaker, I'm not so naive to think that we're going to eliminate suicide, but we have to do something to cut it down. There are people who are hurting.

Mr. Speaker, there are residents of Nunavut who are probably quite hopeful in the messaging that they heard a year ago and they're still waiting. Everyone in this room is still waiting for something to be done. We have not heard anything.

Mr. Speaker, the people who are affected, every morning they get up, it's hard for them; they have to face the day. Every day gets a little bit easier, but the hurt never goes away. It's there.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my member's statement.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members, for allowing me to continue.

Mr. Speaker, something has to be done. It is the government's obligation to help Nunavummiut who are anticipating or who need help so that they don't go to the final step. Once a person commits suicide, you can't help them anymore. That's it. They're

gone, but the ones that are left struggle. They question themselves, “Is there more I could have done?” It is our duty to help everyone.

We hear lots of announcements from the government about many things, and unless I missed something, I have not heard about tackling suicide vigorously so that we can curtail the numbers.

It is a sad state that we have to bring it up here that there are people that are struggling for many reasons, and I believe that is in an issue that has to be tackled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

### **Member’s Statement 102 – 6(2): Recent Activities in Constituency**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River and everyone here, particularly residents of Iqaluit. I am grateful for your hospitality and welcoming us hither, and for having a nice place to stay during our meeting.

Mr. Speaker, community residents experience hardships and stressful matters and events can transpire at any time, and it is obvious that during this fall session, we will also deal with difficult matters and hardships are sure to follow.

Now, on behalf of both of my constituency communities of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, I informed the residents via radio I would advocate for their interests but that I wanted updates and issues to bring on their behalf to this House. Prior to commencing my statement, I wish to share some good news and experiences we underwent, and I want to recognize residents who are worthy of some praise and appreciation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s minister and the Minister of Community and Government Services, along with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation staff toured my constituency. First, let me talk about events in Qikiqtarjuaq. There were a few beneficial developments happening in Qikiqtarjuaq during the summer which I want to mention briefly.

With the NHC, we had quite a few vacant public housing units empty for many years. Now, they were renovated, which allowed them to become habitable and nice places to inhabit. One was a multi-unit building, which sat empty for a long time, but several workers arrived to conduct renovation work, which was completed, which allowed residents to move into this building, and now it is a vibrant place for people to move into, and I am very appreciative of this development.

Further, there were several old government staff houses used by government employees and these units were also renovated, including new lighting fixtures and on behalf of the

residents of Qikiqtarjuaq, I voice our appreciation and gratitude for improving our local situation.

The hamlet offices are also undergoing some renovation work too. We need to express news such as these events, which I wanted to do, and I too wish to share more news that highlights our local improvements, as we start to get into our business here in the legislature, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues for allowing me to finish my statement, and further, another important aspect of this beneficial development was the upgrading of the access roads into these areas, albeit not all the roads.

Another matter within my home community of Qikiqtarjuaq, that I wish to elaborate on is our local community freezer. For quite a few years after the freezer burnt down, the new replacement freezer sat unused although it was placed into the lot set aside for it.

There were several barriers that needed completion prior to the facility being made ready, such as electrical connections and parts requiring transportation via sealift, as they finally arrived this summer. The parts arrived and the community freezer that sat unused, although all the surrounding logistics such as workers and cooks for the crews had been made ready and due to the lack of parts, it was not completed until recently.

That's good to hear, that it will now move forward as it will employ local people during the completion work. I wanted to talk about some good news, some useful things that came out, and the fact that this government provides assistance to the communities that allow us to progress, and I wanted to talk about that first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

### **Member's Statement 103 – 6(2): Issues with Student Transcripts and Financial Support**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome all of the members back to Iqaluit, and I welcome the audience in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, over the summer there have been a number of concerns raised by constituents and some media coverage on post-secondary students applying for financial assistance to Nunavut students and transcripts through the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I do know that the minister is very aware of this issue and has spoken directly in the House here in the past, stating that any students can contact her directly with concerns, and although the majority of time that I have concerns brought to me I recommend the same two students I have had forwarded a couple of issues over the last few months to the minister directly.

To give the minister notice, I will be following up today with some questions along the lines of some of the issues that have been ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

### **Member's Statement 104 – 6(2): Extended Power Outage in Sanirajak**

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, members and ministers. To the visitors in the gallery, I welcome you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about events that occurred over this past summer in the Amittuq constituency, in the communities of Sanirajak and Igloolik. It was quite stressful as several residents passed away which made it difficult for residents.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today is to speak to this matter. As everyone knows, members arrived yesterday to attend to this session from our communities. I imagine the ministers already are aware, that Sanirajak is under an emergency protocol, due to the power blackout.

I returned on Sunday from my visitation to Igloolik, and the lights went out then, and continued to flicker on and off, going from one area to another. To date, I just received an update that Sanirajak is still experiencing a blackout. I wanted my executive colleagues to realize this is the case locally, and our government employees, that it is under an emergency order, and I would like both communities to be assisted, particularly Sanirajak.

If the people of Sanirajak are watching, please inform our elders who cannot access Facebook and please ensure the elders and mobility challenged are okay by going to see them. This is the reason why I rise, to ask for the declaration of an emergency measures enacted by our hamlet yesterday.

A flight was able to get into the community and although I didn't want to leave, I had to come hereto represent my constituents. I would like to thank the minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation for keeping us constantly informed. That's why I rose this morning. Mr. Speaker, we must be patient and I ask residents to be patient as this reparation work is happening; it's being fixed.

I would like to thank the Department of Education for making their gym available, but unfortunately Sanirajak is in an emergency right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 105 – 6(2): Dismal Canada Post Services in Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day and good day to the people of Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk a little bit about the very poor service we are having in Rankin Inlet from Canada Post.

Mr. Speaker, Canada Post's inconsistent hours and lack of delivery of mail and parcels is hurting our community severely.

In fact, another alert went out today, luckily not through the mail because they wouldn't receive it, but through the Internet, saying that we are going to have intermittent hours again until such time that Canada Post's Nunavut branch could clear the matter.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have been notified that they have parcels in Rankin Inlet and they have been sitting there for six to eight weeks and people are not receiving their parcels. Mr. Speaker, that's not good enough. That affects also the mail going out to the outlying communities.

Mr. Speaker, if heads of Canada Post and Nunavut can work in Iqaluit and sort out thousands of Amazon boxes every day, surely they could hire full-time employees in Rankin Inlet with full benefits so that people could go to work.

Mr. Speaker, this is absolutely no blame for the staff they do have in Rankin Inlet at the time who are working as hard as they can to keep with the mail, but they just can't. Mr. Speaker, this is completely on the management of Canada Post (Nunavut). They need to go in there and rectify the problem so that people in Rankin Inlet can be provided with their mail and parcels as per Canada Post's policy: deliver mail on time.

Mr. Speaker, on this note, I was actually going to write to Canada Post about this problem, but I figure it's going to take six to eight weeks for them to receive it, so I say it today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 106 – 6(2): Recent Deaths in Constituency**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Kimmirut and Kinngait.

Mr. Speaker, at our last spring session in June up to now, South Baffin has lost some cherished elders as well. As you noted, Mr. Speaker, our regent Queen Elizabeth passed away, who was the elder of the Royal family, and who was acknowledged by the western world.

Nonetheless, I want to mention the loss of our esteemed elders in South Baffin. I want to mention the venerable elders in Kimmirut who were known widely throughout our island, as Inuit tend to venerate their elders, and we feel the loss of elders, so I wish to acknowledge them and their families, and to let them know of our sympathy and their place in our thoughts.

In Kimmirut, this elder also represented our riding previously, when we were still part of the NWT. I want to recognize Kenojuak Pudlat. In Kinngait, we lost quite a number of people seemingly in close proximity; I want to specifically mention and acknowledge Udjualuk Etidloi, Nuvalinga Kingwatsiak, Qikiqtani Inuit Association Board of Director Matthew Saviajuk Jaw, Quvianaqtuliaq Pudlat, and recently Aningmiuq Samayualie.

We know our elders are aged and will not live forever, therefore we must honour their words and serve them while they are living. They have done a lot for my constituency of South Baffin obviously. They have done a lot for their communities. We are thinking of the residents. It was a heavy summer in that way, but we must proceed forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

#### **Member's Statement 107 – 6(2): Mental Health Workers from Kitikmeot**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Once again, good day to all the Nunavummiut and those that are listening back home in Cambridge Bay.

Yesterday I had the great pleasure to welcome two constituents from Cambridge Bay into Nunavut House, Evelyn Kitigon and Stacey O'Toole, who worked for the Department of Health with mental health, and they were joined here with their colleagues from across the Kitikmeot, Joanne Taptuna, Krista Niptanatiak of Kugluktuk, Kathy Okpakok of Gjoa Haven, and Sally Kukkuvak of Kugaaruk, along with Adrian Perez Ara and Sabrina Guzman of Iqaluit.

It was really nice to have constituents here in the city of Iqaluit doing training on mental health. They were here for the past two weeks and they are making their way home today; otherwise they would be here in the gallery with us to watch the proceedings. I just wanted to thank them for their hard work and dedication that they do in our community and the support that they give to our constituents. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeegok.

**Member's Statement 108 – 6(2): Issues with Polar Bear Sport Hunts**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the riding I represent, the High Arctic constituency, the polar bears tend to congregate when the sea ice is freezing up and the Inuit take advantage by harvesting bears that approach the community, but legally by following the harvesting rules.

As well, outfitters also take out clients to harvest polar bears as a means of employment income, as there are not very many employment opportunities in the smaller communities, and the communities take advantage of this economic opportunity by putting aside some tags for sports hunts and it is quite beneficial to our local communities.

With that being the case, many clients from overseas were blocked from coming to my constituency due to a myriad of legal barriers, and many sports hunters who wish to conduct hunts were barred from travelling to Canada by the latest protocols. I urge all governments outside of the country to re-examine these legal barriers to ensure that our local communities can benefit from our careful management of our wildlife species, allowing our residents to take advantage of this economic opportunity.

It also allows local people to have some sustenance as a side benefit, and I urge them to allow more food security through this avenue. Just last month, the HTO in Arctic Bay was able to pull names for polar bear set aside for an American sports hunter who returned the tag due to being unable to import it into the USA.

We would prefer that this not be an obstacle, as polar bear hunting is a major economic activity that has financial impacts in the communities. I wanted to bring this up in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. I have no more names. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions****Return to Oral Question 127 – 6(2): Federal Funding for School Air Handling Units**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the Return to Oral Question No. 127 – 6(2), which was asked during the spring 2022 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

\*See Appendix for full text of Return to Oral Question 127 – 6(2).

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too am quite ecstatic to be standing here today, and to rise to acknowledge an esteemed guest visiting our House today. I wish to formally acknowledge the Consul General Danielle Monosson, the American Consul General in Quebec City who is visiting Nunavut for the very first time.

Welcome to Nunavut! She just started this past July, and it is her first trip. Her office is in Quebec City, with initiatives supporting both Quebec and Nunavut. I am very happy to see that she wants to work and cooperate with us during her visit, and we want to collaborate with her office, and accompanying her from the consul general's office is Mr. Emmanuel Boucher-Fassett.

Welcome to the House and I welcome you both to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a resident of Arviat who is in the Gallery who I want to recognize, Shelton Nipisar. Please rise, Shelton, and he is a young man from Arviat taking the interpreter/translator course here in Iqaluit, Mr. Speaker.

I thank him publicly as he has also taken the time to teach some words, especially when I forget certain words as I have raised questions to him from time to time. He is quite capable and possesses an extensive vocabulary.

I urge Shelton to continue in his education, and I support you in your educational endeavours, and I hope you pass your course here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a constituent here in the House, Jaypatee Akeeagok, my older brother, and welcome to the House. My cousin, Rebecca Killiktee, also here for the translator program, welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to welcome a constituent of mine and to recognize Rebecca Qulittalik and Nancy Ootoova. Welcome. Further, they are also students in the interpreter/translator program, and I am proud of your educational efforts. I am also proud of Leesee Aliqatuqtuq as well as Saa Pitseolak, who are also in the gallery as they are the teachers in the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Once again *quana* to our special guests that are here. I would like to echo the warm welcome to our dignitary from the United States and also would like to welcome the second-year students of the Interpreter/Translator Program that are studying here at Nunavut Arctic College. We have in the program Shelton Nipisar, Elisapee Kaluktuk, Nancy Ootoovak, Caitlyn Joanas, Rebecca Qulittalik, and the staff from Nunavut Arctic College, Leesee Aliqatuqtuq, Chair of Language and Culture Program, and Saa Pitseolak, Program Coordinator. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oh, sorry. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I wanted my colleague who represents the riding to firstly acknowledge this person, nonetheless, I am belittled by this event, and I want to recognize my father, who is also in the gallery.

I am thankful for your visitation, and I take pride in this fact, and I am always thankful as you have supported us, and of your constant desire to provide support for Inuit in our area as you have fought to have Inuit rights acknowledged. I am very appreciative and grateful for this opportunity to recognize you in this, your House. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. My apologies. There's a rule which we're not supposed to recognize a member more than once. That will be the first and the last time.

>> *Laughter*

Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to welcome and introduce yesterday we had meetings with Microsoft on an exciting pilot project between Community and Government Services and the culture and heritage department. We have a visitor here in the gallery; her name is River Kong, so welcome to our legislature. (interpretation) Please welcome her, (interpretation ends) from Microsoft. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 163 – 6(2): Inuit Employment at Boarding Homes**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister I wanted to question is not here, so I will now direct my questions to the Minister of Health regarding Tammaativvik once again.

Mr. Speaker, when I was visiting my constituents in Igloolik, a constituent conveyed a matter that was troubling for one of the patients, who witnessed the event.

Mr. Speaker, I want to firstly ask this question, as I am aware that the Department of Health has a contract for a service provider for the operation of the Tammaativvik Boarding Home.

Are you in agreement with the contract which provides for a certain number of Inuit employees? When you look at construction agreements, it usually lists a percentage in the contract, such as 15 percent or 20 percent as the target for Inuit hires.

One of the problems faced currently by unilingual elders especially is when there are no Inuit providing front desk services on staff, they sit there waiting. Can the minister state here, what does it state for the targeted percentage of Inuit employment under the contract for Tammaativvik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Yes, the need for interpreters on staff is quite large and the need for an Inuktitut speaking staff member is quite clear, as we need them to provide services to unilingual Inuit, and we understand this need.

In April 2022, at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, there were 11 employees who were capable of speaking Inuktitut, and this document is quite dated, as it is referencing the month of April. Nonetheless, we are constantly encouraging the contractors to hire Inuit

to provide services for medical patients as we understand that this is a much-needed essential service for medical patients travelling to medical appointments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister didn't answer my question, so again, I asked you whether a listed percentage is written in the contract? What is the minimum percentage of Inuit employees required to work at that facility?

The minister indicated, that yes, he has an ongoing working relationship and dialogue with the contractor on this issue, and you referenced April 2022 as the latest report on this matter. I would like to understand as you did not answer my question on the percentage requirement for Inuit employees?

You stated there used to be 11 staff members who could speak Inuktitut. Now, let me ask this question instead. For medical patients who are unilingual and to use that argument, can you undertake urgent discussions on the immediate need to have Inuit employees who can assist Inuit medical patients, such as 50%?

Will you be able to list that percentage to the contractor? I believe it is Nova, who has the contract and if I am wrong, you can correct me. Are you able to provide this type of requirement as the Department of Health, that 50 percent of the front desk staff have to be Inuit to provide this linguistic service for Inuit medical patients?

Can you now clarify this as the Department of Health, and publicly announce it in this House? Do you agree? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of language service provision is quite huge, and quite important, and we fully understand the need for this service as the member raised. Now I have no idea where he got this 50 percent requirement that he alluded to, but I am unsure if I understood, so I cannot provide a concrete answer to this question.

Based on my understanding of the details, at this time, the contract we are working under doesn't identify a specific percentage number, if I am correct, Mr. Speaker, but we do have an ongoing set of meetings with the contractors and their staff and we keep encouraging them to improve these numbers.

Mr. Speaker, there's always a caveat. We hear of potential employment opportunities throughout the various employment opportunities here in Iqaluit. It's quite challenging, not only at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home but also within the government departments, private businesses, and they're all looking for capable Inuktitut-speaking employees.

As an example, there's a shortage of qualified Inuit speaking workers and several places also have a bilingual bonus that is provided. There are private businesses we can't operate, but I hope I answered your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was mentioning that to the minister by using that number of 50 percent as an example only, for his discussions with the contractors' providing services at the facility. I imagine the Department of Health has a signed contract and that they can use it to require the contractor to apply this requirement.

The reason why I used this example of 50 percent is for your next meeting with the contractor providing the services; I was just using 50 percent as an example of Inuit content requirements, so there would be 50-50. I was using that as an example. I wonder when an answer will be ready.

Maybe I'll rephrase my question. You indicated that April 2022 was the last time that a report on employment figures was provided under the contract or the agreement. When are you going to have a review of the next meeting report under this agreement that you can provide in this House where you clarify the new percentage under the contract?

When is your next review of the service agreement? Is there a listed date for the next review and when will this contract be replenished between your department and Nova? I hope you understand my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, what I can respond with is that we are working with the contractor Nova Group, and we are currently negotiating a new service contract now. The Tammaativvik Boarding Home is too small, which we recognize, but they have constructed a new building that may be available for using for an overflow of clientele and we are conducting negotiations to that effect, Mr. Speaker.

Furthermore, upon completion of the discussions and the signatories for this contract, we would then be able to provide specific details in the upcoming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

#### **Question 164 – 6(2): Extra School Staff Needed in Chesterfield Inlet**

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority has recently requested an additional teacher for the community's Victor Sammurtok School.

Can the minister confirm that she has received the letter from the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority on this issue and indicate whether she has replied to it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. In regard to the letter from the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority for the teacher, I did receive that request and it is with the department at this moment. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority has identified the need for an academic English teacher to support both staff and students. In particular a teacher certified in this specific area of academics could help students to prepare for college or university level education.

Can the minister describe how the Department of Education determines the number of teachers and what specific qualifications are required to deliver a full academic program in our community schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. In regard to teachers in our schools, they are based on the number of students that we have enrolled in our schools and that ratio is determined to further articulate how many teachers are hired in that particular year. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Mr. Speaker, the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority has noted that the lack of focus on delivering academic English and grammar within the education system has been a real obstacle for students who are advancing in their studies and wish to attend post-secondary institutions.

Will the minister commit to allocating the additional teaching resources that have been requested for Chesterfield Inlet's Victor Sammurtok School? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* again to the member for the question. I cannot commit to hiring an additional teacher as that's within the department to work

with the district education authority and they do the education programming, but I will commit that the department is reviewing the case as we speak and it is in front of me and I hope that we will have an answer to the member as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

### **Question 165 – 6(2): Naujaat Community Hall**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the community of Naujaat recently suffered a major loss when our community hall was destroyed by fire earlier this month.

I want to take a moment to pay tribute to the first responders who fought the fire and to give thanks that nobody was seriously injured in the incident.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the fire marshal's investigation into the cause of the fire? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Aivilik for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, large facilities are essential in the communities and again, in the community of Naujaat. I would also like to thank the firefighters and first responders for taking immediate action. We have not yet received a copy of the fire marshal's investigation report about the cause of the fire. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you, minister, for your response. Mr. Speaker, today I am quite proud of the efforts of the community of Naujaat as they are collaborating on the retrieval of services, after the loss of the Uvaqtuijiit building they can use, such as the school currently being utilized for this purpose, as it is made available for activities that used to take place at the community hall prior to the fire.

The community of Naujaat lost an important local facility that provided activities for the local youth especially, as it was open every day. (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate what specific support his department has been providing to the municipality? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The department has responded to the needs in Naujaat after the devastating fire, of course through the fire marshal's office, the investigation is ongoing. Aside from that, my department has been in contact with the hamlet as well, and this asset was a hamlet asset and not the Government of Nunavut asset, and from my understanding, it's insured through the municipal insurance program, so these are ongoing discussions my department is having with the Hamlet of Naujaat and will continue to provide support where needed.

I look forward to go through with my colleague on what the next steps will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) I am confident that the minister will agree with me when I say that the community hall was essential to the community Naujaat. Can he confirm funding to replace the Naujaat community hall will be included in his department's five-year capital plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate where the member is coming from, and as noted, there have been some different fires that our territory has faced, and community halls or schools, but we do try to proceed with what's available to us, and given our capital plans we'll be presenting today, those have been under development for quite some time, and the capital planning process and adding a new project at this stage is not... I can't commit that it will be within our five-year capital plan at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

### **Question 166 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Staff Condominium Program**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. They are regarding the Government of Nunavut's staff condominium program.

As the minister is aware, the GN's Staff Condominium Program was launched over half a decade ago. This initiative was initially intended to provide more affordable homeownership options for long-term employees and gave priority consideration to Inuit employees.

However, the NHC's most recently tabled annual report indicates that only a quarter of the units had been sold by the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

In November 2021 the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a public announcement indicating that the application period for the program would be closing at the end of the month. Mr. Speaker, that was almost a year ago.

I would like to ask: can the minister tell us today how many of the condo units have been sold in the first and the second application processes? How many units remain unsold? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I thank my colleague for his question. It's fitting I wear this tie; it was your first campaign manager's tie. Mr. Speaker, yes, we've been having issues with the uptake of the condo units. As everybody's aware, there are 60 units in 2 parts of the city, there are 24 condo units in the plateau and 36 in on the road to nowhere.

Mr. Speaker, up to now, we have a total of 13 units sold in the plateau condo court, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Throughout the year and exceedingly over the last six months I had many constituents approach me with frustrations over the program, both condo owners as well as applicants.

Mr. Speaker, in an attempt to curb inflation, the Bank of Canada has increased the benchmark interest rate today to 3.75 percent. This is the sixth increase since March. It doesn't seem significant, but the impact on mortgages has seen the cost of borrowing triple since February.

Mr. Speaker, applicants have had to apply and reapply for a 90 day mortgage pre-approval with frustration as the rates steadily increased.

Mr. Speaker, another issue that has been brought to my attention concerns tax implications of the condo buyers. It is my understanding that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been advised that the Canada Revenue Agency had determined that the staff condo program is considered a taxable employee benefit, which means that employees pay tax on certain amounts that are calculated in the transaction. Mr. Speaker, these factors are resulting in a number of disincentives to participate in the program.

I would like to ask: can the minister describe what options the Nunavut Housing Corporation is considering to address these issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for the question, and for my colleague to be underlying some of the frustrating issues I

believe both sides are having in terms of sides, the housing corporation and the possible homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, we've had to deal like other departments and other workforces across this country with staff turnover. COVID is still very real in that term. We've also had issues where successful proponents were having problems getting approval once they got to the banking stage, and the other side of that is people who applied to get into the homeowner condo program found out that their line of credit or their ability to own a house and get a mortgage was better than what they saw with the condo unit and went on to look for bigger and non-condo housing.

Mr. Speaker, those are some of the issues that we've been having on that, and we continue to work to get as many as those units sold as we can. We're continuing to look at ways to get around the... in terms of the past implications, my colleague is correct because this was underlined as a government employee program directed initially to try to help Inuit government employees and long-term government employees to get into their own units that are affordable, and because of that, there was research done into the matter, and it implies that it's a benefit to the government employees, and therefore it becomes taxable. We are working through that issue as we speak.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we are looking at is to see if we take it out of a government employee only program and open it up to outside government employees, if the tax implications will be removed, we're working through that as we speak.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, even with the tax haven of taxes on these units, they are still quite a bit cheaper than if you went after a non-government housing condo unit purchase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker I would like to thank the minister for that response. The government's formal guidelines for the GN staff condo program indicate that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will, and I quote, "provide the necessary declaration and by-laws required to establish the condominium corporation, pursuant to the condominium act and undertake the necessary management of the condominium corporation until sale of 60 percent of the units and the condo project has been realized, and if its board of directors has been established."

Mr. Speaker, concerns have been brought to my attention that no board has been established, that all decisions, such as condo fees and contingency fund rates are being made by NHC officials. I would like to ask, can the minister provide an update on how the Nunavut Housing Corporation is addressing this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker I think the answers lies within the question my colleague asked. As soon as there's 60 percent of the condo units are sold, they will be able to establish their own board, and until such time that 60 percent of those units are purchased, then the management of that board is currently being done by the senior staff of Nunavut Housing Corporation. We are working to try and get to 60 percent as soon as we can and ensure that there is a condo board at the earliest convenience, Mr. Speaker, and that's where we are on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

### **Question 167 – 6(2): Sanikiluaq Fuel Resupply**

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the Minister is aware, the community of Sanikiluaq has been experiencing a fuel shortage in recent weeks. The need to ration our remaining fuel supplies has impacted the community in a number of ways, including the need to implement restrictions on the number of flights that can land at the airport.

Mr. Speaker, when I learned about this situation, I immediately notified the minister's office. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of Sanikiluaq's fuel situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. As early as last week, when we found out that there was a shortage in Sanikiluaq, my department was able to redirect a fuel tanker to the community, and as far as I understand it, that tanker should be arriving to that community late this week, by the end of the week.

There's a petroleum product division technician that was flown to the community to support the hamlet, and the situation, as I understand, is in dire need. We do understand that the fuel in Sanikiluaq hasn't run out, and we're maximizing the fuel that is there, and each house and building has enough to last up until the tanker arrives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister for the update for the community of Sanikiluaq. it is important that actions be taken to prevent a situation like this from occurring again in the future and it is clear to me that all stakeholders need to work closely together to evaluate Sanikiluaq's fuel resupply needs.

Can the minister commit to ensuring that a full review of this incident takes place and that its results be shared with both my office and the Municipality of Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker:** Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the member for his question on this. Our petroleum products division, as I stated in my minister's statement, it has been a quite difficult and different year for the resupply season. Alongside that, the petroleum products division has worked around having an annual report around their operations and activities.

I can assure the member and this House that this is an ongoing thing that the division evaluates and assesses its operation to make sure that we don't fall into this situation again. We have embarked on a few different ways that we want to make sure that it doesn't happen and this is also looking at the capacity that's there in each community and planning ahead around... . As I stated, we're increasing the fuel purchase for next season by 12.5 percent. That's to address some of the shortage that we have been experiencing through this resupply.

Mr. Speaker, as for the member's question around having a detailed report, I'll have to get back to the member on if that would be covered through an annual report through the Petroleum Products Division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for the response. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Sanikiluaq's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan identifies the need to look at relocating the community's tank farm to a safer location.

Will the minister also commit to ensuring that his department's review of Sanikiluaq's fuel supply needs also considers issues related to the community's existing fuel infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Petroleum Products Division, we do look at the existing infrastructure around Nunavut and what are the needs going forward. As for right now, our current priority and as we know, introduced a budget for the Arviat tank farm and that's also moving it to a separate location and this entails quite a bit of work but also a lot of financial resources. When we're proceeding with that, we will have to consider those options in Sanikiluaq as well as other communities based on the needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

**Question 168 – 6(2): Elders Housing Issues**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, one of my constituents in Pond Inlet, Elder Meeka Atagootak, recently testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

I provided his office with a copy of the transcript from the committee's televised hearing.

Elder Atagootak's testimony focused on the urgent need for housing investments in Pond Inlet, and drew attention to significant issues facing private homeowners such as herself.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to my constituent for her efforts.

Can the minister confirm if he has had the opportunity to review my constituent's testimony to the House of Commons? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government recently released its new housing strategy, and I am confident that I and other MLAs will have more questions about the strategy in coming weeks.

Can the minister highlight some of the main ways in which the new strategy will address the specific housing needs of elders in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The housing strategy, just by the sheer numbers of houses we are looking forward to building, will take a lot of pressures away, especially from our elders who are housing their children and their grandchildren, and in some cases, great-grandchildren in very inadequate housing, where there are two- and three-bedroom houses with 10, sometimes 20 people. I think just the fact that we are looking to build more housing units across Nunavut is going to take a lot of those pressures away.

Mr. Speaker, on top of that, we are looking to have more training involved during the construction of these units so that out of the construction of these units, we will have trained electricians, plumbers, oil burner mechanics, and so on that will be trained through this program. That will mean that communities such as Pond Inlet and others will

be able to have then trained tradespeople in their communities to do maintenance and preventative maintenance for homeowners and likewise.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, the housing corporation, as we speak, we are looking to create a system in communities where there are no tradespeople to ensure that elders who are private homeowners or just simply private homeowners who do not have access to oil burner mechanics and electricians and plumbers to take a look at their annual building maintenance of their house to ensure that their furnaces and heaters have been certified to operate for another year, the preventative maintenance, and so on, we are looking to see if we cannot put out tenders and calls for interest to service to go into communities where these elders and private homeowners can have that kind of maintenance done to their homes. That includes elders and just people in general who do not have access to that kind of trades that other larger communities may have.

Mr. Speaker, in a nutshell, there are many things that we are looking at that will benefit the elders and just the general public in terms of helping them in taking care of their homes, whether it's private homeownership or public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) One of the issues that Elder Atagootak raised with our federal parliamentarians is the difficulty that private homeowners such as herself have in accessing the Nunavut Housing Corporation's home repair programs for seniors. The programs are great on paper, but seniors in my constituency encounter a lot of barriers when trying to go through the complex application process.

As the minister is aware, I have written a number of letters to him in recent months on behalf of a number of my constituents, and I hope to receive replies from the minister in the near future.

Can the minister indicate what specific changes the Nunavut Housing Corporation is considering to make its homeownership programs more accessible to elders and seniors in Pond Inlet and other smaller Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are taking a look at the different homeownership programs to see if it would not be easier to just put some of those programs' funding into one allocation instead of creating too many, for an example, but the issue is there are people in Pond Inlet who have received multiple homeownership assistance support.

In the letter that I'm drafting to my colleague, the individual in question, from my understanding from our records, has received at least five different program funding sources. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to try to provide more, but we are always looking

to see how we can't make assistance for homeowners easier, especially in this time of need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Question 169 – 6(2): Arviat Tank Farm Progress**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to question the Minister of Community and Government Services on his minister's statement, as Arviat is one of the communities that is affected by resupply.

First, I would like to thank the minister for the prompt response earlier in the spring when Arviat was running out or low on diesel fuel and 400,000 litres was flown in. I'm very thankful for that. I know that there is a new tank farm going into Arviat.

Can I get an update from the minister as when he anticipates it will be tendered out, and when will the contract will be given out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question.

Mr. Speaker, the Arviat tank farm project... . Since we'll be discussing further in the Committee of the Whole... . We are still proceeding with the project as planned, and we expect that it would be... .

The project completion date is scheduled, as of now, for 2026-27. So there has been a two-year extension delay due to the site selection, as well as funding availability. We just sent a letter to the Standing Committee MLAs around some of these details.

As of now, we're going to proceed with Arviat's tank farm full speed ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I know that the project was delayed, but funding was approved for the project to go ahead. I anticipate that they'll go ahead. I received letters that more funding may needed to complete the project. The initial amount that was requested was approved, and it was delayed due to circumstances beyond the minister's control. I am aware of that, since selection. To the best of my understanding a site has been selected and the project should be able to go ahead with the tendering now.

Now that that's out of the way, part of his other statement, Mr. Speaker, was that 2022 re-supply season is almost complete. When can the House expect announcements on the prices of fuel? Whether it's staying the same? Whether it's going up? When can we

anticipate that announcement? Nunavummiut are anxious to hear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question, and I know that Nunavummiut are anticipating the fuel price increases.

Mr. Speaker, I do intend to present the Financial Management Board an option in November. We expect announcements to be made shortly thereafter in the month of November is when we can anticipate how much and when fuel prices will be increased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The revolving fund the Petroleum Products Division uses to buy fuel for the year for all of Nunavut. We know it has a cap. We are also aware that the prices of fuel in this world are much higher than they used to be.

Is the cap a hindrance or are we going to still have enough room in there so that all the fuel that will be used for 2023 for Nunavummiut will be reviewed further? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I'm concerned, we do have enough within the revolving fund, and also the House is considering the stabilization fund in a deficit position. As of now, as far as I'm aware, we have enough to work with, but if that's to change, then I'll be sure to advise my colleagues around this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

### **Question 170 – 6(2): Investigation of Death of Community Member**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the (interpretation ends) Minister of Health.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, last month, as many have heard through the televised news coverage, the community of Qikiqtarjuaq faced the loss of our esteemed elder Markoosie Audlakiaq, who was one of the oldest residents and who was returning home from medical care in Iqaluit.

The reason I rise today is to express the fact that we lost our local elder, causing much suffering which is still being felt today, as we felt saddened by his passing as he flew

home as it is still impacting his remaining family members, as he passed away just prior to the landing of the flight into our community.

He was an important support person for me especially, although he was not a relative, he was a constant source of encouragement via telephone calls, and he encouraged me greatly and he was a pillar in our local community as he also provided this encouragement to many residents, not just me.

In the events that transpired, he had previously been medevaced to Iqaluit through Clyde River, and then onto our community. They attempted to provide care at Clyde River, but eventually they let him continue on the plane, and approximately five to ten minutes before the arrival of the flight, he passed away on the plane.

His family were anticipating his return at the terminal in our community, and this happened on September 29. Can the minister publicly state if his department is investigating the events which led to this death? Can the minister provide an update on the status of the investigation being conducted by his department and the timeline of the events that led to this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the question, prior to responding, I wish to firstly express my condolences and empathy to the community and all of the elders' family members, to all of the relatives of the elder who passed away.

It is a major matter, Mr. Speaker, and further, we are still conducting this investigation, and this is still ongoing, as we have not completed our investigative work. I want to be clear in my response to my colleague, and I want to be very clear as there are also privacy reasons and confidential information that cannot be publicly stated at this time, and to respect all parties.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice and I do hope to provide a full response to the member's question as soon as possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

### **Question 171 – 6(2): Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I alluded to in my member's statement, I have some questions today for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, over the past number of years, it has been recognized that the division of the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students has had challenges and the minister has stated so in the House here as well. Mr. Speaker, during a previous session, the minister stated

that a number of applications are delayed due to insufficient information being sent in by the students.

My first question on this topic: how many applications for Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students and the housing allowance have been received by the department and how many of those have been approved for this last fall's session of school? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question on FANS and the comprehensive review that's undergoing with the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students. For the fall of 2022, we have 642 Nunavut beneficiaries who have applied for FANS and we have a detail of lists of students either were waiting for their student enrolment form, cancelled, or they are enrolled, pending, or they send their regrets or they have withdrawn. We also have a compiled list of Nunavummiut who are non-beneficiaries and we have a total of 111 students who have applied for Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students this past fall. The particular details of how many are not receiving, I can send in a detailed letter with that compiled statistic to the member and the rest of our colleagues. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to receiving that information from the minister.

Mr. Speaker, in the application process a number of students have raised concern to me on the lack of response from department officials regarding the application, sometimes in the weeks in length of time. Three to four weeks sometimes, people still aren't receiving even a reply from staff. My question along this line is: what is the current staffing complement of the division that supports Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students applications and the related housing allowance that was announced last January, and out of those staffing, how many of those were summer students?

As I recommended during a recent appearance, current students at the post-secondary level have the best exposure and best experience with the FANS system, application process, and some of the hurdles. What is the current staffing level and how many summer students were utilized this year? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. I believe there are a few questions in there, so I'll try to answer to the best of my ability.

For this past summer, we have had three PYs in the frontline staff processing applications, we had hired two summer students, and we also currently have four on CSAs working at the FANS office.

As additional information, as of the beginning of October, every student that has submitted all the required forms did receive their payment for FANS. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister may want to check with her department officials. I personally know students that still are awaiting payment, and thankfully their families were able to be able to provide funding on the short term to be able to make sure that those students are attending school, frankly, with no help from the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, when we're looking at sending students to post-secondary education opportunities, we want to make sure that our students are being supported. There are enough challenges in front of not just young students but adult students. There are financial responsibilities to their families that they're trying to support.

The minister just mentioned that there were three PYs in the FANS division and currently four CSAs and three summer students were hired. I guess I need some clarification. Did the minister say that there are three full-time PYs or are there three total PYs in the division? It doesn't seem appropriate to me to have just under the FANS application process over 750 applications divvied up between either three or seven people, whatever the number is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* for the question. As we are undergoing the comprehensive review of the financial assistance program for Nunavut and working to support our students as best we can, this task is undertaken with a lot of serious regard in terms of working to meet all of the aspects that our students need. We are hearing the challenges and I do thank those people who have reached out and we want to support the students the best that they can.

We do have staff in the office in Arviat who have been there for a long time and I want to thank them for their dedication. We do have right now three PYs who are on the frontlines processing applications. We currently have an additional four PYs that are on CSA and we had two summer students and all of the PYs and the frontline casuals are there to support the FANS applications. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

### **Question 172 – 6(2): Patient Engagement Team**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Iqalummiut and especially to our hard-working public servants who are watching today.

Mr. Speaker, as much as I would like to look at you and your new clothes...

>> *Applause*

...I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health today.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health recently announced that it was seeking applicants for its newly formed Patient Engagement Team. The public service announcement lists a number of attributes that the applicants must have but does not provide much detail on this group's specific objectives.

Can the minister clearly describe the aim and purpose of this newly established Patient Engagement Team and how it will work with other entities that focus on improving health care services for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question, and if I understand the situation clearly, indeed I will try to present an answer here.

The newly established team, as an example, has the role of advising the department, an (interpretation ends) advisory (interpretation) role in English, and their mandate is to provide advice on the operations at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, specifically recommendations to improve services and to work towards a hospitable and welcoming atmosphere at the workplace.

If I understand this correctly, the nurses' and doctors' roles are not subject to being reviewed, neither will they look at issues related to this service provision, as this already is a matter under a different body that provides evaluations. Nonetheless, they will be undertaking an (interpretation ends) advisory role. (interpretation) I hope my response is clearly understandable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Minister Main, for that response. Mr. Speaker, as my fellow MLAs will know, I am a strong advocate for ensuring that our Inuit voice is heard and that our Inuit perspective be given a priority role in determining policies and actions which directly affect our population and society. We know that there is much work to be done, even by Nunavut, to help Inuit reach substantive equity in health.

Can the minister clarify what steps will be taken to ensure that Inuit will be well represented in his department's new Patient Engagement Team and whether or not they will be fairly compensated for sharing their expertise? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I comprehend the question she raised. We wish to include more Inuit in the board level involved. We welcome all interested persons and we are open to Inuit who wish to apply for these board positions.

Nonetheless, if I understood the question clearly, these committees or boards sometimes have difficulties in attaining a quorum, especially when there is a lack of interested applicants. This applies to the various committees and advisory bodies that advise our government. Even when we open the requests for applicants, sometimes not enough people apply.

However, regarding the secondary subject she raised in her question, this will be a position that is a voluntary one, so they would not receive any monetary compensation, so in English it is entirely a (interpretation ends) volunteer (interpretation) placement. Many of these committees follow this protocol, but if monetary compensation was requested to this government, we would have to deliberate on this request, especially as it relates to volunteer committees, if that is indeed the barrier behind the lack of interest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that yes, the advisory group would not just be Inuit-specific and it's that clarification. However, minister, I think it's really important that we ensure that we show how much we value people's input and specifically people's time when they come to help us to improve our systems and specifically our health care system. We know that for many years, the issues around the health care system have been raised within this House numerous times and the need to ensure that the policies, procedures, and even the environment wherein we provide health care services can benefit from having the advice of our patients and their advocates who use the health care system.

I suppose this isn't a question and as much as I would...actually it is a question. Minister, is it possible to reconsider whether or not these really important people to our health care system would be compensated for their time? The value of their input is immeasurable in helping to create a better and safer health care system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for querying me on that subject. I totally concur on that assertion, as we need to be transparent as a government and with our regional departmental operations as the Department of Health. When we are apprised of required improvements, we need to use our ears to listen to these recommendations, hence the importance of the role of these committees, as they play an important role. We are trying to strike up these committees here in Iqaluit.

With respect to her question, yes, I do agree. I do not necessarily agree to the monetary compensation issue where they would receive an honorarium. I do agree on the need to discuss this matter and I will raise it with my officials to see whether we can make improvements and if we can include monetary compensation to create more interest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Question 173 – 6(2): Support for Condominium Corporations**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second set of questions is again for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and regarding support for condominium corporations.

Mr. Speaker, again I must express the frustration that I have heard from my constituents regarding the GN staff condo program, the taxable benefit of which is somewhere in the range of \$40,000 and \$50,000, which will be added to their cost of units and the addition of a contingency fund to the purchase price and most recently the increase of the condo fees, which have increased from \$700 to over a thousand dollars, an increase of almost 50 percent. Mr. Speaker, the last matter, increase in the condo fees, is largely due to the insurance rates that condos must pay.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I tabled correspondence during the previous Legislative Assembly that I had received from a significant number of Iqaluit residents who belong to condominium corporations. These residents expressed serious concerns about the increasing difficulty that condo corporations are facing in obtaining affordable insurance.

Mr. Speaker, when I last raised the issue in the House, I was assured that the Nunavut Housing Corporation was aware of the insurance crisis and would be meeting with the federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and other parties to consider options to address it.

I would like to ask: can the minister provide an update today on what specific actions have been taken to address the issue of condo insurance availability and affordability in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague is aware that over the last number of years, insurance for any infrastructure that is \$10 million or more has skyrocketed due to the amount of fires we have been having across Nunavut, so insurance companies are very hesitant to insure and when they do, it's very high.

At the initial stages early in the condominium work, the government did a self-insurance initially with those units, but as the units become sold, the cost of the insurance for these

units would be borne by the owners, by the condo corporation, and be paid through the condominium fees. My colleague is correct; it's very expensive to insure them. Mr. Speaker, we are continually working and trying to find ways in which we could help the condo owners across Nunavut in finding ways and exploring ways to see if there isn't something we could do to make insurance of condos across Nunavut more affordable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the minister's response. However, in recent years I have only heard of one condo facing a significant incident such as a fire. Mr. Speaker, if I recall correctly, most insurance claims submitted by condo owners are related to floods in mechanical rooms or damage to the exterior of the buildings.

Mr. Speaker, another issue that I have previously raised is the need for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to ensure that its programs for homeowners to access support for repairs and energy upgrades are also available to condo owners. I believe that this might also help to address the insurance issue.

The government's recently released Nunavut 3000 housing strategy indicates that the corporation will "...support cooperative housing and condo corporations and redesign homeownership programs for people interested in purchasing new affordable and market housing units." Mr. Speaker, I'm encouraged to hear this. However, I would like to ask: will the minister commit to ensuring that this strategy will address the need to ensure that condo corporations and owners can access the NHC's home repair programs so that they will be less reliant on insurance claims? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assure my colleague that we are and we will continue to see how we could better serve homeowners in Nunavut. It's getting very costly for condo owners and private homeowners and I look forward to seeing progress in terms of seeing how the housing corporation, through its programs, could help alleviate some of the costs, if we can't help with insurance, if we could help through other means. I hear my colleague and I definitely will be looking into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I appreciate the minister's response and I'll follow up with that at a later date.

As the minister is aware, the federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation recently undertook a project to address insurance availability in partnership with a Rankin Inlet

condo corporation, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation itself.

I would like to ask: has the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provided the results of this work to the Nunavut Housing Corporation and, if it has, will the minister commit to sharing the findings with all Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a problem sharing information that is sharable to the public on that topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

### **Question 174 – 6(2): Work from Home Options**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Human Resources on behalf of all of my constituents in Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

There were no employment opportunities in both of the communities I represent. Since the COVID pandemic, there were people who were able to work from home. I would like to know if this is currently under review, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. It's very true that after COVID, some people were required to go to work and those who were able to work from home did so. Since that is not the case anymore, there have been questions from the employees about whether they can work at home, but we have to revamp the program and we will also have to think about providing good services to the public. It will have to be looked at carefully and revamped. We would like to find out how we can make an improvement to the system. We are currently looking at it now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a high percentage of students who completed their grade 12, and we have to make sure that they are provided employment. The parents urge their children to make sure that they complete their education and then they enter the labour market. There is absolutely nothing available workwise. I think it would be appropriate for the government to look at this working at home. That's why we urge our students to complete their education.

As I indicated earlier, COVID arrived and we started working at home and looked at new alternative ways to provide the services and the programs outside of the office

environment. We have entered, if you have internet, if you have a laptop, and if you have a phone then you are already connected to the government system. I would like you to look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for raising this issue. We acknowledge this very well, in particular in communities where we see lack of jobs available. We always try to seek ways of how we can accommodate communities with positions opening. We constantly discuss these and this won't stop.

As I mentioned earlier, the remote work policy is something that will have to be revamped to ensure that it works for Nunavummiut. It's also something that has to be diligently worked on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees of Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 041 – 6(2): 2020-21 Nunavut Status of Women Council's Annual Report**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the 2020-21 Nunavut Status of Women Council Annual Report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

#### **Tabled Document 042 – 6(2): Correspondence dated July 19, 2022 from the Minister of Human Resources**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one document to table today in my capacity of Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

The document is correspondence from the Minister of Human Resources in response to questions that were asked during the June 10, 2022 proceedings of the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Tabled Document 043 – 6(2): Correspondence dated July 19, 2022 from the Minister of Family Services**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one document to table in my capacity as the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

The document is correspondence from the Minister of Family Services in response to questions that were asked during June 8, 2022 proceedings of the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. I have two documents to table today.

**Tabled Document 044 – 6(2): Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Conduct of the Sixth Nunavut General Election****Tabled Document 045 – 6(2): 2021-22 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth**

The first document is the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut's Report on the Conduct of the Sixth Nunavut General Election and the second document is the 2021-22 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth.

Members, we will now take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:50 and resumed at 16:26*

**Speaker:** Welcome back, everyone. We're at Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions****Motion 009 – 6(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments and Revocations – Notice**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 28, 2022, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that members be appointed to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly;

At the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Motion 010 – 6(2): Establishment of an Electoral Boundaries Commission – Notice**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Friday, October 28, 2022, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that an Electoral Boundaries Commission be established as of October 26, 2022;

At the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Notices of Motions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Motion 011 – 6(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 28, 2022, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

At the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills****Bill 08 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023 – Notice****Bill 09 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2021-2022 – Notice****Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Notice**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 27, 2022, that the following bills will be read for the first time:

- Bill 8, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023*;
- Bill 9, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2021-2022*; and
- Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Government House Leader, Mr. Joanasie.

**Bill 11 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Notice**

**Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Limitations of Actions Act, the Legal Questions Act, and Repeal and Replace the Interprovincial Subpoenas Act – Notice**

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 27, 2022, the Hon. Craig Simailak, Minister of Justice, will read the following bills for the first time:

- Bill 11, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*; and
- Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Limitations of Actions Act, the Legal Questions Act*, and repeal and replace the *Interprovincial Subpoenas Act*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

**Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Commissioner’s Land Act – Notice**

**Bill 14 – An Act to Amend the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act – Notice**

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 27, 2022, that the following bills will be read for the first time:

- Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Commissioner’s Land Act*; and
- Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Item 16. Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Hickers.

**Motion 009 – 6(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments and Revocations**

**Mr. Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments and revocations;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that members be appointed to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Adam Arreak Lightstone, Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Karen Nutarak, Member for Tununiq, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the appointments of Adam Arreak Lightstone as a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness be revoked;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the appointments of Karen Nutarak as a member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development also be revoked.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Motions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Motion 010 – 6(2): Establishment of an Electoral Boundaries Commission**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 14 of the *Nunavut Elections Act* provides that an Electoral Boundaries Commission must be established for Nunavut every 10 years, commencing in 2022;

AND WHEREAS the Electoral Boundaries Commission is responsible for proposing to the Legislative Assembly the boundaries and names of the constituencies in Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS subsection 26(2) of the *Nunavut Elections Act* provides that the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission must be completed within 250 days of its establishment;

AND WHEREAS the Electoral Boundaries Commission is required to undertake its work in accordance with sections 17 to 30 of the *Nunavut Elections Act*;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend appointments to the Commission;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that an Electoral Boundaries Commission be established as of October 26, 2022;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the Legislative Assembly recommends the appointments of the Hon. Justice Susan Cooper, Michael Hughson, and John Maurice as members of the commission;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the Legislative Assembly recommends the appointment of the Hon. Justice Susan Cooper as presiding member of the commission.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Motions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Malliki.

**Motion 011 – 6(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, I request consent of the Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The minister is asking for consent to allow for the first reading of Bill 10. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Kusugak.

**Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – First Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills****Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 10 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 10 with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

I ask that members remain in their desks so that we can immediately proceed with the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to start the Committee of the Whole procedures to review bills and other matters. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 10. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to commence the review of the 2023-24 capital main estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Malliki. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 10?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Joanasie: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you. If you will allow.

**Chairman:** We will soon find out. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you. For the record, Minister Joanasie, please introduce your officials and then you can proceed with your opening comments. Thank you.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me today are, to my left, Deputy Minister Kyle Seeley, and to my right, Director of Financial Services, Mandy Hickey.

Colleagues, it is my pleasure to join you today to review the Department of Community and Government Services' capital estimates for 2023-24 as part of the proposed five-year capital plan covering the 2024-28 period.

Mr. Chairman, for the 2023-24 fiscal year, my department is proposing a capital appropriation of \$103,489,000. The projects and initiatives identified within this proposal fall into two broad areas and they are:

- Investing in Community Infrastructure; and
- Enhancing Service Capacity

### **Investing in Community Infrastructure**

Mr. Chairman, as our communities grow, so does the demand on aging municipal infrastructure. As part of my department's 2023-24 capital estimates, my department is proposing the following investments into community infrastructure:

- \$31,243,000 toward 12 projects that will improve drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities in seven communities.
- \$10,536,000 toward projects managed by my department that will replace or improve municipal assets like hamlet offices, maintenance garages, and fire trucks.
- \$19,500,000 toward capital contribution programs that provide funding directly to municipalities to initiate and manage capital improvements to municipal assets.

Combined, these initiatives represent a total proposed capital investment of \$61,279,000 toward the projects and initiatives that enhance the quality of life in Nunavut communities and advance *Katujjiluta* priorities by ensuring critical assets in communities have the capacity to accommodate development.

Mr. Chairman, access to safe drinking water is a fundamental of community life. Critical infrastructure such as water treatment and distribution systems and wastewater management facilities are built to meet the capacity needs of communities and the regulations in place at the time of their construction.

As communities grow and regulations change, so do the demands on our existing, aging infrastructure. In 2023-24 my department proposes a focus of capital funding on the assets that are the foundation of the programs and services provided to Nunavummiut by municipalities and our territorial government.

My department's proposed 2023-24 capital appropriation includes a total of \$31,243,000 toward improvements to water and wastewater treatment and transmission infrastructure

in Nunavut's communities. These improvements are required to mitigate risks to community water security and to ensure the critical infrastructure that services homes, businesses, and public assets in Nunavut communities have the capacity to maintain services and accommodate expansion and growth under the *Katujjiluta* mandate.

These critical infrastructure projects in seven communities constitute approximately 30 percent of my department's 2023-24 proposed capital appropriation and include:

- \$187,000 for design of a modern water treatment plant to replace the current pumphouse in Arctic Bay.
- \$2,091,000 toward construction of a new water treatment plant in Grise Fiord.
- \$698,000 for construction work to complete upgrades to the water intake in Kugluktuk.
- \$188,000 to begin design of a new water treatment plant in Pond Inlet.
- \$150,000 to begin design of a mechanical wastewater treatment plant in Rankin Inlet.
- \$2,700,000 to begin planning and design work to replace water and sewer mains in Rankin Inlet to ensure the local system can manage flow rates and additional demands due to development.
- \$650,000 to begin the design and construction of a replacement of Nuvuk Sewage Lift Station in Rankin Inlet.
- \$18,720,000 to continue construction and renewal of local water and wastewater piping systems in Rankin Inlet.
- \$4,946,000 to proceed with the design and construction of a new water treatment plant in Rankin Inlet that will produce safe drinking water for the community and with sufficient capacity to meet volume and flow rate demands of new development.
- \$275,000 to proceed with the design of a wastewater treatment plant to adequately treat both piped and trucked wastewater in Resolute Bay.
- \$188,000 to begin design on a new water treatment plant in Sanikiluaq capable of treating the community's source water to meet drinking water standards.
- \$450,000 to begin design work on new/upgraded lagoon to treat wastewater in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Chairman, members will note my department's proposed 2023-24 capital appropriation includes a series of five water and wastewater projects totalling \$27,166,000 all located in Rankin Inlet. Combined, these projects constitute over 26

percent of my department's total proposed capital appropriation for 2023-24. These projects have been prioritized to ensure the Rankin Inlet utilidor system, owned and operated by the Government of Nunavut, continues to function consistently, with sufficient capacity to meet the current and expanding needs of the community.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to water and wastewater projects, my department's 2023-24 capital appropriation proposes an additional \$10,536,000 capital investment into municipal infrastructure in the following areas:

- \$1,261,000 toward design and construction work to upgrade the Kinngait Maintenance Garage.
- \$6,675,000 to begin construction on the new hamlet office in Sanikiluaq.
- \$2,600,000 to replace community fire trucks in Igloolik, Clyde River, Sanikiluaq, and Resolute Bay as they reach the end of their lifecycle.

Mr. Chairman, beyond these projects managed on behalf of municipalities by the department is committed to building capacity within local governments. In 2023-24 Community and Government Services is proposing additional investment into programs and projects managed by municipalities in the following areas:

- \$1 million toward the Municipal Green Infrastructure Program. This program was introduced in 2019 and provides a dedicated source of funding for municipally led projects to address climate mitigation and adaptation needs in Nunavut's communities.
- \$4 million toward the Municipal Parking Garage Program for the second year of this program that provides municipalities with a guided model to plan, design, and ultimately construct their own parking garages. Three communities were approved in the first year of the program and the department is consulting with municipal administrators to refine the program for 2023-24.
- \$5,500,000 toward the Mobile Equipment Funding Program which provides ongoing annual block funding to non-tax-based municipalities toward the management of their Municipal Mobile Equipment Program.
- \$4 million toward the City of Iqaluit to support infrastructure improvements in water, wastewater, roads, and general operations. This is the final year of a five-year agreement with the city.
- \$5 million toward establishing a Granular Crushing Equipment Program. This is a new initiative identified by the department to ensure each municipality has access to crushing equipment to produce granular supply to support new capital projects and operational improvements in Nunavut communities.

## Enhancing Service Capacity

Mr. Chairman, in addition to the support provided to municipalities, Community and Government Services provides a variety of services to other Government of Nunavut departments and ultimately Nunavummiut. As part of my department's 2023-24 capital estimates, my department is proposing the following investments to ensure the department can maintain and enhance service delivery to departments, communities, and Nunavummiut:

- \$14,110,000 to begin construction on the Government of Nunavut's fibre link to southern Canada. A request for proposals was advertised by the department in June 2022 and closed in September 2022. Pending approval of funding in the Assembly and award of the contract, construction of the fibre optic cable is scheduled to begin in 2023-24, with anticipated completion in 2025-26.
- \$3,500,000 toward lifecycle replacements and equipment upgrades in the Local Area Network and data centres information technology and systems provide the framework that supports the work of the Government of Nunavut and services to Nunavummiut.
- \$13,100,000 to undertake the design and construction of a new tank farm in Arviat. The community has agreed upon a location and this project will ensure the tank farm meets regulatory and code requirements and provides additional capacity to meet the demand of bulk fuel storage in this growing community.
- \$6 million toward small capital projects managed by the department or municipalities in the following four areas:
  - **Building and Equipment Upgrades** – a total of \$2,700,000 toward upgrades and repairs to Community and Government Services facilities to ensure ongoing operation and regulatory compliance.
  - **Fleet Vehicles** – a total of \$300,000 to purchase new or replacement vehicles used by staff to conduct maintenance checks, deliver programs, site visits, and address emergency situations.
  - **Petroleum Products Division Small Capital** – a total of \$1 million toward fuel storage and distribution upgrades managed by the Petroleum Products Division.
  - **Municipal Capital Block Funding** – a total of \$2 million allocated to non-tax-based municipalities toward small capital projects planned and managed by the municipalities. This funding is designated for municipalities. However, it is identified within the department's overall proposed small capital budget.
- \$4 million toward a new Tenant Improvement Fund, subject to approval of this appropriation, will provide the department with funding to initiate capital

improvements on existing leased properties to enhance the workplace and service delivery to the public.

- \$1,500,000 to initiate preliminary planning on future projects. As part of my department is proposing \$1,500,000 toward planning high priority water and wastewater treatment infrastructure projects, and improvements to municipal and territorial infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, these initiatives combined represent a total proposed capital investment of \$42,210,000 to ensure my department can maintain service delivery to Nunavummiut, communities, and client departments.

Mr. Chairman, in 2023-24 my department is proposing a total of \$42,210,000 in capital funding toward projects that will improve or maintain the assets that are critical to the delivery of programs and services provided by the department.

Mr. Chairman, projects identified within my department's capital estimates for 2023-24 demonstrate our commitment to meeting the critical infrastructure needs of Nunavut's communities and for the second consecutive year, an increased investment into projects managed by municipalities. These projects also demonstrate our ongoing commitment to enhancing the Government of Nunavut's core infrastructure to support service delivery to departments and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to present the projects proposed within the Department of Community and Government Services' 2023-24 capital estimates. With your permission, it will be my pleasure to take questions and comments from the committee. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year is \$103,489,000. This represents an increase of approximately 77.7 percent from its 2022-23 capital budget.

The department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates include \$1.5 million in funding for planning studies. Members continue to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the status of ongoing and completed planning studies. Members also encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the status of integrated community sustainability plans.

On March 28, 2018 the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut announced the signing of a bilateral agreement under the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The announcement indicated that Nunavut will receive up to \$566,761,621 over the ten-year period of 2018-2028. The agreement ends on March 31, 2028. On August 12, 2021 the federal Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs announced that "...\$517.8 million is available for shovel-ready infrastructure projects for Inuit communities. This funding will help close the infrastructure gaps by 2030." The extent to which the Government of Nunavut is working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to identify specific projects remains unclear.

The department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates include funding for the government's planned fibre infrastructure project. On August 19, 2019 the federal Minister of Rural Economic Development announced that the Government of Canada is "...investing over \$151.0 million in this project under the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan." On June 8, 2022 the department issued Request for Proposals 2022-38: Katittuq Nunavut Fibre Undersea Fibre Optic Cable System. The request for proposals closed on September 16, 2022. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this work, as well as updates on the status of the government's application to the federal Universal Broadband Fund.

On March 28, 2022 Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated publicly called on the Government of Nunavut to "reconsider its plans to bring fibre to Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet and engage with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on how to maximize the impact of infrastructure investments to create an expanded fibre network to improve broadband connection for as many Inuit communities as possible." Members encourage the minister to publicly clarify the status of the government's discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated concerning the fibre project. Members also encourage the minister to publicly clarify the status of the project's relationship with the proposed Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link initiative, which has received support from the federal Canada Infrastructure Bank.

The department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates include funding for a new Granular Crushing Equipment Funding Program. Members strongly support initiatives to enhance granular supply and security in Nunavut's communities. Members look forward to the department developing a formal policy to administer this new program.

Members remain concerned over the frequency of boil water advisories and other water quality situations in a number of communities. The department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates include funding for a number of water-related capital projects in a number of communities. The department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "work with partners and stakeholders to develop and deploy the Drinking Water Strategic Framework Action Plan." Members look forward to the timely tabling of the action plan.

The department has issued a number of requests for proposals in recent years for solid waste management feasibility studies for a number of communities. The department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "continue to work with lead agencies and other stakeholders in the development of a solid waste strategy and solid waste management regulations." On March 29, 2022 the department issued Request for Proposals 2022-18-1: Business Case for Solid Waste Facility Upgrades. The request for proposals closed on April 26, 2022. A contract to perform this work was awarded to Dillon Consulting on August 4, 2022. The request for proposals concerned the 13 communities that are included in Solid Waste Bundles 1 to 3. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this work.

The department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates include funding for its Municipal Parking Garage Program, its Municipal Mobile Equipment Program, and Municipal Green Infrastructure Program. Members continue to encourage the minister to annually report to the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures and initiatives under these programs.

The Municipal Parking Garage Program Policy is in effect until March 31, 2027. Members are concerned that although a majority of communities are likely in need of new facilities, it is the standing committee's understanding that only three applications have been submitted to date. The Municipal Parking Garage Program Policy provides that eligible expenditures include "costs associated with completing municipal garage planning studies." It is important that the program assist municipalities with these costs. Members also encourage the department to achieve cost savings by working with municipalities to develop a set of standardized designs for parking garages.

The department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates include funding for the replacement of Sanikiluaq's municipal office. Although members recognize that the department's funding is not unlimited, it encourages the minister to work closely with municipalities to ensure that integrated community sustainability plans are updated on a regular basis.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Before we go to the detailed questions, I would just like to give members an opportunity to have any comments on the general comments on the opening comments. Seeing none, I ask members to go to page J-3. Community and Government Services, Local Government Services. \$45,209,000 to be approved. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just like question a little bit on the parking garage for the municipalities. We have heard from many MLAs that it is needed. We've heard from some of the MLAs where the vehicles are parked outside. Others are parked in unheated garages and that adds to the cost. Can the minister explain why every single community didn't apply for this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that. Just to clarify, we did receive seven applications under this new program and three were approved. Contrary to what the opening comments were, when Mr. Savikataaq read.

We do have parameters within this program that allow for eligibility or making sure they fit within the criteria. So, we are going with this policy as intended as we presented to the House and three successful applicants were happy to be proceeding with.

We know there haven't been parking garage built for a long time. So, this is something that we want to turn around. So, this is something I think as more projects or municipalities complete their projects and we want to see more applicants. And, hopefully that will substantiate more funding through this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister elaborate on criteria and eligibility, like do you have to be good friends with somebody or do you have to, like can you elaborate on that? It leaves a lot to the imagination when you just say criteria and eligibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. I mean, I don't review these applications myself but maybe if I'll have my Deputy speak to a bit around that eligibility criteria and what factors are looked at in each application if you allow it Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. As far as eligibility criteria goes, I do want to just circle back as this being the first full year of implementation for this program. These are capital dollars that we are administering as contributions.

Some of the largest capital projects that will be managed by these municipalities. Our objective at the start of this project that is launched was to make sure we provided a guided experience to municipalities in how to develop these pieces of infrastructure.

In doing so, we came up with a very prescriptive program that made sure municipalities knew what is was that they were asking for in meeting all the planning design and code requirements for developing an asset at this size. We have a very detailed application package that's been circulated to all municipalities.

Feedback from municipalities is that it is in fact too prescriptive. I think that was a limiting factor in our first year on the intake to the program.

And, as recently as last week we have invited feedback from municipalities and input from municipalities on how it is that we can improve the program to make it more accessible. To increase the numbers that are applying and prepare to take on managing the development of their own parking garage programs. The application program is very prescriptive and does require a full number of steps as far as the commitments to do the planning.

And all the stages of the planning before moving to the design and construction in a series of years, the senior administrative officers have been very engaged in this program and I think they're quite keen to provide some input on how we can make it more accessible. Hope that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes it does. Now we don't have to imagine how that criteria is, now we know.

I would like to ask the minister or his officials that how much money would a hamlet have to invest in order to meet that criteria for the planning and design in hopes of getting the funding approved? If the funding is not approved, I take it that all the money that has been expended for the planning and designing the hamlet would have to eat that up if they are not approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it, CGS, through this this program, we can also cover the pre-planning around when they're trying to proceed through parking garage projects. That's part of the costs that can be covered. I hope that answers the member's question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity then. A municipality can apply and can spend the money on planning and designing for a garage, even if they don't get approved for the project, CGS will reimburse them the amount that they have spent planning and designing to build a garage. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through his program, those are eligible costs that municipalities can spend. Just so the member understands. So they can submit an application that includes what is planning as part of their budget, and then they

would proceed with the next phase, provided that they met the criteria and spent their money accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Joanasie. I think I'm even getting confused now. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if I'm not making myself clear, or not understanding the minister, but a municipality spends a couple hundred thousand on planning and designing of a garage. At the end, they're not approved for the project. Would they be eligible to recover their costs that they have spent on planning and designing even if they're not approved for a garage under this program? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you'll allow my Deputy, maybe if he can set it straight for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Go for it, Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is happy to receive proposals from municipalities to provide them with funding to initiate the planning so that they're not out of pocket for those costs.

After we provide that funding for them to initiate the planning, they would then proceed to submit another proposal based on that planning being complete for design funding.

The initiative is not intended to require municipalities to cash manage this. In fact, we investing in municipalities to support them and managing their own capital projects.

To the member's question, we are currently providing planning funding to the municipalities that were approved. Based on the initial feedback that we received from some municipalities we are reconsidering the application process to, in fact, allow for us to fund pre-planning, which is to say to hire a consultant to help them go through the rigours of the application process so that the municipalities aren't out of pocket to proceed with these projects.

It will help the municipalities to manage their own infrastructure projects. It's not meant to make them pay out of pocket or else at risk of not having that approved down the road. I hope that helps. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Clear to me. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear that this program is not intended to have any municipalities up front and the money that will be funded. Would it not make more sense for the department to have maybe three or four designs of garages

that are pre-engineered, that are stamped, that the hamlets can pick so that they don't have to do all the engineering?

I mean, if all 24...I'm not sure if Iqaluit is included in this. If all 24 or 25 communities hire an engineer to do the blueprints and all that, it's a huge cost overall. If CGS did it and hired one for "These are the plans. Which ones would you like to apply for?" That seems to be a cost-saving measure where more municipalities would get more garages instead of getting all the engineers and architects, all the money for every community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. A common design has been a feature of a number of departments' initiatives on cost savings, so I think it's a good idea. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will consider those options. We do, however, have codes to abide by and every community is different in terms of the site assessments that are done, the geotechnical work, so those need to be factored in as well, but it's consistent with what we're hearing from municipalities that they want to see either a common design or something to draw from that they can choose from. We will consider those as this program evolves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the more the reason why the department should do it. The minister just stated that they have codes to follow. Of course they do. That's why the department should take the project on and not tell the municipalities what they want or what they need but have common designs so that the municipalities can pick a design that is suitable for their community. I understand about geotechnical and different and all that and each community is different. I understand all that. I think we're going in that direction anyway, but I would like to hear a bit more concrete that we are from the minister. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are trying to hear what the communities are saying, but also, I mean, at the same time we need to be mindful around a lot of factors. I mean, this project, as I said, it's brand new and right off the bat, we're getting feedback around how to make it better. This is going to be an ongoing thing, I think, and until we get it right, whenever that will be, but I will take those comments and consider.

I think this is part of where we want the communities, the municipalities taking over their own capital projects to the best that they can and this is to support that and their endeavours. I just wanted to add that part and it's not necessarily the Government of Nunavut saying, "This is for you." It's for hamlets to be more self-sufficient and taking over their own capital needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to hear the minister say that he will take those under consideration. When we're going to approve a budget, we will also consider what the minister has to say. It works both ways.

Going on to my next issue, still about garages, though, there used to be fire hall replacement, which is a garage, on a schedule and I have noticed that there has been none for quite a while. Arviat was on that list before too for a fire hall replacement and no one has been on the list for a number of years. Can the minister explain? We seem to have an unfortunately high number of fires, so fire halls are needed, but if you can explain why the fire hall funding just seems to have fallen off and it's not there anymore. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if you will allow my deputy to respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question on the fire halls and their association with fire protection. The member is correct in pointing out that there have been a number of communities that have identified fire halls in their ICSPs as a priority for replacement. A number of communities were identified in the planning stage in earlier iterations of the plan and among those were Whale Cove and Arviat. I think that those were included in some correspondence that the minister shared with the committee previously.

CGS is the department responsible for local government infrastructure, including garages and fire halls and maintenance garages. Right now the plan that is before the committee prioritizes water, wastewater and solid waste critical infrastructure, with other projects like maintenance garages and parking garages and fire halls in a very high priority within the critical infrastructure for municipalities. Simply put, the other priorities that are included within the plan on water and wastewater and critical services like that have replaced the fire halls in this year's appropriation.

Certainly a new fire hall and extensions to existing fire halls remain a priority both for the communities and the department to ensure fire protection services are maintained and enhanced. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could stand to be corrected, but for the past two years, there have been no fire hall replacement funds put forward. Just a clarification on that, he said that this year they're not there because there are other

priorities, but with what I have in front of me, the last time there was any capital projects put forward for a fire hall was 2020-21. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy advises that from his recollection, I believe, Kugaaruk and Arctic Bay were one of the last few. I think we will have to verify the years those were in the plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Arctic Bay fire hall was \$2.5 million in 2019-2020, \$2 million in 2021, and then there was no more funding after that for any fire hall, so just to clarify here that it has been a while.

I know that you have limited dollars, but there's got to be something done. I know there is not much wear and tear on a fire hall, but when you need the fire truck, it better not be frozen. It's just a comment. Are there any plans to put fire halls back on the capital plans? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's questions around fire halls and it is something that's still on our radar. We do have appropriations set aside for fire truck replacements. The member is correct in that there is not a lot of wear and tear in fire halls, but we will look at eventually looking to replace existing fire halls and/or additions to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Speaking of fire trucks, can the minister let us know the current fire truck replacement schedule? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. For this cycle, 2023-24, Sanikiluaq, Igloolik, Resolute Bay, and Clyde River are the four communities that are slated for new fire truck replacement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to different projects here, I know I did ask in question period about the Arviat tank farm replacement and the minister assured me that it will go to tender and there are budgets here in front of us. Are there any difficulties or challenges that the department might see that would cause delay? This tank farm was needed last year. As the minister is aware, diesel fuel was flown in last year and

I can't see them not flying in any more again because the capacity has not changed in the community. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many infrastructure needs that we needed last year, including this one for Arviat. We do anticipate that we will have to fly in additional fuel to Arviat and given the capacity, it just doesn't meet the needs. Until that tank farm is built, it would be something that will very likely be ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remember the minister stated how much it cost last year. I remember the amount of fuel was 400,000 that were flown in, but if you can remind us how much it cost to fly the fuel in to Arviat. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, if I remember correctly and I stand to be corrected, we flew in 400,000 litres at a cost of about \$450,000. That's what I recall and for this summer, August 1, there were 399,000 litres of diesel that was flown in at an amount of \$350,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I guess they couldn't squeeze that last litre in for a round number. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have many more questions currently on this here, but I would just like to make sure or get the minister's assurance that the tank farm project in Arviat will go ahead because it is so badly needed and until it's done and in place and completed, fuel will have to be flown in. It's just a comment. I encourage the minister to work even harder than he did last year on it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I'll take that as just a comment. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister.

I guess I'll start with the City of Iqaluit's contribution agreement. Your department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates include \$4 million in capital funding for the City of Iqaluit and your department's capital projects substantiation sheet indicates that the current Government of Nunavut block funding contribution agreement with the City of Iqaluit is set to expire on March 31, 2023. I'm just wondering: as of today, what is the status of renegotiating or renewing the agreement with the City of Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I understand that the city has completed a capital plan and so that has been done. It has been completed and we do have approximately \$40 million, that the city needs approximately \$40 million to complete capital projects and maintain existing infrastructure over the next five-year period. It is still something that our department is negotiating with the city with, so that's where it's at right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's substantiation sheet indicates that the annual amount to be provided to the City of Iqaluit under this agreement will increase to \$9.0 million, or \$9 million, for the 2024-25 and subsequent fiscal years. I'm wondering how that amount was determined and especially in light of just the last comment about the city needing \$40 million to complete capital projects, and if I can just throw in a little bit more, with that agreement, how open is it to upward amendments should the need arise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since this is a multi-year agreement and there is room for amendments throughout the agreement, but we know the city is growing and the capital needs just for the city alone is quite substantial, so we are seeing an increase in this contribution agreement, just recognizing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on the issue of a multi-year agreement and what we know about the impact of the COVID pandemic that a number of projects had to be carried over and I wonder how much or if the city was allowed to carry over funds multi-year and, if so, how is that impacting the negotiated amount of \$9 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The city is seeing the same inflationary pressures that we're seeing here within this legislature and our capital budget process, but the city can carry over funds within their budgets and then after the other. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Minister Joanasié. I don't think you responded to my question about whether or not any of the carryover or if there is current carryover from last year is impacting the negotiated \$9 million. Sorry if I missed that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if you will allow the deputy to dial in on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The city, as the minister described, it is a multi-year agreement and they do carry their funds over from one year to the next. It is a distinct budget managed by the facility. Many of the projects that they manage are multi-year in nature. They are free to carry both projects and funding for those projects from one year to the next, because they're, in fact, managing them on a life-cycle basis.

Any kind of carry-overs or funds that they have retained would not be negatively impacting the negotiation with them. In fact, the funding that's been identified for future years is, in fact, based on their forward plan.

So that's how that \$9 million was carved out. It was based on what the city had actually submitted into the analysis of that capital plan.

To answer the member's question, no. There is no impact there. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you for that. I appreciate that response. Your department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates include \$4 million in funding for a new tenant improvement fund, and a total of \$20 million is projected to be spent between 2023-24, and 2027-28 fiscal years. I'm just wondering how your department determined the need for this new fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This new initiative is essentially centralizing the tenant improvements to leased spaces.

On behalf of departments, will be to central IGT to initiate that process, instead of each department handling it on their own. Looking at the number of leases as well as costing of making improvements, this is what we've come up with that whole support. Making our offices more user friendly, not just for the workers, but also for the public. So this is centralizing, but also, hopefully, making sure that tenant improvement are done in a more efficient manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The substantiation sheet for that fund indicates that your department worked out for the projected space requirement for the leased spaces, including renovation requirements for those spaces most in need of upgrades.

I'm just wondering what specific improvements have been identified as a priority for the 2023-24 fiscal year, which community do you expect to expend that fund in? That was my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. This would be identified with each client department on what their needs are, as well as why we want to move forward with their leased spaces.

This again is something that we want to work with the departments well on, and so that we can work better around tenant improvements. So this is something that, we hope, will proceed across the board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like a little bit more information about what the engagement process for the report, in terms of how you mentioned that these leased spaces will be improved for the employees, as well as the public. That is a couple of questions, different stakeholders there.

A few different questions, including whether or not Workplace Safety and Compensation Commission has engaged, in terms of creating safer work spaces for employees of the Government of Nunavut, whether it be measures to reduce the transmission of communicable diseases such as COVID as a great response. Knock on wood.

The ability to reduce potential violence within the workplace should somebody want to enter the workspace and conduct themselves in a manner that puts employees at risk for harm.

And then, on the other side or another question is related to accessibility for community members to be able to engage with the employees of the Government of Nunavut in their workplace.

We know that there are people with sometimes different abilities whether they'd be mobility issues or sight, hearing those sorts of issues that might impede access and full support when they attend those spaces.

If you can talk a little bit about how that those issues are being looked at and whose engaged in creating those projected reports of projected space requirements. Thank you. That was rather long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Still got a few minutes on the clock, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And given the questions dive deep right into some of the inner workings and how they envision this initiative to rollout. Maybe if I have my Deputy provide some further insight, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I am just going to take this back a little bit before I respond to the issues that you raised.

The premise of this fund, first and foremost, is to ensure that we have funds on hand to make improvements to leased spaces so that we can hire staff, move staff in to serve the public.

The current system requires that those clients departments access the funds, transferred to us to make those repairs and those upgrades.

What this will do is allow us to move staff in to begin serving the public sooner because we would be able to cash manage the repairs when the lease is executed.

This really about making sure that there aren't any avoidable delays on client departments moving into newly leased spaces or making changes, or required changes like the member described to existing lease spaces.

To the peaceful consultation, we have existing systems set up within our Real Property division. Engaging with client departments to allow them to articulate what their needs are for both their staff to be safe and function effectively and importantly serve the public and their clientele safely and appropriately.

Those are existing processes, the client departments identify before we secure a lease or renew a lease for any real property managed through the department. Of the 120 or so leases and 750,000 square feet of lease spaces that we currently have. Those processes do exist, square feet. Pardon me. So those places are already in place.

This exercise is a fact in this program that we can manage that funding more appropriately. More quickly to get people into those lease spaces, I will say that our department in advance of bringing this appropriation request forward has engaged with departments to assess what their needs are whether their interests are in having this program. The notion was very well received from our client departments early on.

And subject to approval in this room, I guess, will be prepared to engage more with the client departments to figure out how we can make most, best use of this funding for lease space upgrades across all of our leased spaces in metres or feet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Sealy. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Seeley, for that detailed response. We know that the Government of Nunavut, as of late, has been engaging employees from a distance, to work from a distance and not necessarily in an office space that is leased by the Government of Nunavut. I'm wondering a couple of questions. If an employee is working from a distance and not within a usual government workspace such as 1107 or 1104 or what have you, if they're working from home or from another place, are they leasing workspace to the Government of Nunavut and, if so, would that qualify to access the Tenant Improvement Fund to improve their workspace? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that falls outside of the scope of...this funding is towards GN-leased spaces only. I think what the member is asking about is something separate. Maybe we will have to take the question for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I asked too many questions in one, I guess. The first question is: when employees are working from a distance, is the Government of Nunavut leasing the space that they're working from, whether it be their own home or space within their community that they're camped over in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I'm concerned, I wouldn't say so, no. The CGS deputy mentioned that there are 120 leases, which are mainly commercial offices. I know there is warehouse space. This costs our government on an annual basis \$27 million. This doesn't include what the member is asking about. When a person works remotely from home or what have you, there is no cost that we would incur as far as I'm concerned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's of particular interest in that if we're not leasing space for employees to work out of, whose job is it to ensure that it's a safe workspace for that employee, but I'll move on.

On June 8, 2022 your department issued Request for Proposals 2022-38: Katittuq Nunavut Fibre Undersea Fibre Optic Cable System. That's a mouthful. The request for proposals closed on September 16, 2022. I'm wondering how many submissions have been received. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasia.

**Hon. David Joanasia:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since this is still in the procurement process, we can't comment on those details yet. It's still under evaluation and once that's completed, we will share information as is appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, your predecessor sent correspondence to MLAs on September 17, 2021 which indicated that the Government of Nunavut had submitted a proposal to the federal government's Universal Broadband Fund. I'm wondering: as of today, what is the status of this proposal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasia.

**Hon. David Joanasia:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We still haven't received a response on our application to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Your time is allotted, Ms. Brewster. I'm sure you can get recognized again if need be. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. It's not debatable. All those in favour. Can I see some hands again? All those in favour. Thank you. Motion carried. I will now rise and report progress to the Speaker.

**Speaker:** Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 10 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

**Speaker:** There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Savikataaq. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 27:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 8
  - Bill 9
  - Bill 11
  - Bill 12
  - Bill 13
  - Bill 14
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 10
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 27, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:59*

# Appendix – October 26, 2022



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**Nunavut Maligaliurvia**  
**Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**  
**Assemblée législative du Nunavut**

## **Return to Oral Question**

**Asked by:** MLA Joe Savikataaq

**Asked of:** Hon. Pamela Hakongak Gross

**Number:** 127-6 (2)

**Date:** June 13, 2022

**Subject:** Federal Funding for School Air Handling Units

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide further information regarding school air handling units, as asked for by the Member for Arviat South during question period on June 7, 2022.

Filters in schools are changed on a regular basis by the Department of Community and Government Services.

The frequency of filter changes is determined by the season. During summer, filters are changed at least once a month, pending dust conditions

around the asset. In the winter, filters are changed once every few months since there is minimal to no dust.

Where fresh air is mixed with return air, the filters are changed monthly regardless of the season. Filters are also changed upon inspection when a change is deemed necessary.

Ducts are cleaned every three to five years.

With regards to the Member's question about Arviat schools specifically, the schools receive regular filter changes based on the schedule I noted. While we were unable to find the specific records of duct cleaning, as I mentioned, ducts are cleaned on a 3-5 year rotational basis, and we will follow-up with the member when the new schedule for Arviat is set.

Quana, Mr. Speaker.